RULE 2 – COMPETITIONS

R2.1 Categories of Competitions

R2.1.1 Competitions in Ireland are classified into four categories based on factors such as the importance of the competition, the quality of the map, and the level of organisation required. A competition may be organised as either an open or closed event. They should be planned and organised in accordance with the Guideline for that type of competition.

R2.1.2 **Category C1:** Open international competitions as approved by the International Orienteering Federation such as The World Orienteering Championships, The World Cup in Orienteering, The Junior World Orienteering Championships, The World Masters Orienteering Championships, The Regional Orienteering Championships, and IOF World Ranking Events.

R2.1.3 **Category C2:** Irish Championship competitions, Regional Championships, Closed International competitions (e.g. Home Internationals), and Other Major Events. The classification of *Other Major Events* shall be determined from time to time by the OI Management Group. At March 2010, the classified events in this category are the Shamrock O-Ringen and the Irish Three Day. For inclusion of additional competitions in this category, Clubs or Regional Associations should apply to the Controller of Technical Standards.

R2.1.4 **Category C3:** Competitions in this category include provincial leagues, colour-coded competitions offering six or more courses, including either a Black or Brown, or age classified competitions.

R2.1.5 **Category C4:** Club Competitions principally designed for the members of the organising club with the format being determined by the club.

R2.1.6 **Training events:** These are classified as non-competitive events.

R2.2 Registration of Competitions

R2.2.1 All orienteering competitions of Category C1, C2, C3, and C4 status to be organised by an OI affiliated club shall be registered with the organisation, in accordance with the procedures set out in Appendix D Registration of Competitions.

R2.2.2 The OI Fixtures Secretary shall be responsible for the registration of competitions, and the preparation and publication of the OI Fixtures List. It shall list all competitions registered by OI affiliated clubs.

R2.2.3 The period of notice for registering competitions prior to their intended date shall be:-

- Category C1 and C2 (Major international and championship competitions) – 24 months
- Category C3 (Regional league competitions) – from 1 June to 30 June for the annual season starting on 1 August in that calendar year
- Category C4 (Club events) – 28 days

To assist in the establishment of national, regional, and club fixture lists for the annual season starting from 1 August it is suggested that clubs, where possible, also register their C4 competitions during June for the following year.

The Fixtures Secretary has the discretion to accept applications that do not conform to these notice Rules although late registrations will be liable for Late Registration Surcharges.

R2.2.4 A competition shall be accepted by OI when its registration has been approved by the Fixtures Secretary and published in the Fixtures List on the OI website. Approval shall be given on receipt of a completed Competition Registration Form from an OI affiliated club, and the payment of the required registration fee. It will be subject to Rule R2.2.5 relating to the proximity of competitions, and the club providing their Map Registration Number, or a letter of confirmation from the club that has registered the map with OI agreeing to its use by the organising club. Applications with no Map Registration Number shall be rejected except in cases where the map is of an area of 0.5 square kilometres or less, or the copyright is held by a non-OI Affiliated club.

R2.2.5 No open C4 (Club) competition shall be registered for the same date and time where its location is within 20k of another C4 competition; or within 100k of a C3 (regional league) competition unless in the former case it is mutually agreed by the clubs wishing to stage competitions within a shorter distance, or in the latter case it is agreed by the appropriate Regional Council.

R2.2.6 No competitions shall be registered for the same days as the individual foot-O Irish Championship competitions unless agreed by the OI Fixtures Secretary.

R2.2.7 No events shall be registered in a Province on the day of the individual foot-O Provincial Championships, or in Munster on the days of the Shamrock O-Ringen or in Connacht on the days of the Irish Three Day unless agreed in writing by the Regional Council.

R2.2.8 The Irish Championship competitions shall rotate around the four Provinces of Ireland, while the Provincial Championships shall rotate among the OI affiliated clubs in each Province.

R2.2.9 No competitions shall be registered on any area where a category C1 or C2 competition is due to be held within the 24-month period immediately preceding the C1 or C2 competition date.

R2.2.10 Competition registration fees shall be fixed from time to time by the OI Management Group and displayed on the OI website.

R2.2.11 If the registration of a competition is rejected, the club making the application has the right to appeal this decision with the OI Management Group.

R2.2.12 Club training events, where no entry fees are charged, no results published, and is restricted to club members only, shall not be registered with OI.

R2.2.13 Squad (National or Regional) training events may be registered with OI.

R2.2.14 All competitions shall be planned and organised to the standards set out in the Guidelines to the Rules.

R2.3 Age classes for Competitions

R2.3.1 Competitors are divided into classes according to their sex and age. Women may compete in men's classes.

R2.3.2 Competitors orienteering 'ages' are defined as their age on 31 December of the year of the event. Competitors therefore change from one age group to another on the 1st January of the calendar year.

R2.3.3 Competitors aged 20 or younger belong to each age class up to the end of the calendar year in which they reach the given age. They are eligible to compete in older classes up to and including M/W21.

R2.3.4 Competitors aged 21 or older belong to each age class from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the given age. They are eligible to compete in younger classes down to and including M/W21.

R2.3.5 The age classes are:-

Men	Women	Age as of 31 December
M10	W10	10 and under
M12	W12	12 and under
M14	W14	14 and under
M16	W16	16 and under
M18	W18	18 and under
M20	W20	20 and under
M21	W21	Open
M35	W35	35 and over
M40	W40	40 and over
M45	W45	45 and over
M50	W50	50 and over
M55	W55	55 and over
M60	W60	60 and over
M65	W65	65 and over
M70	W70	70 and over
M75	W75	75 and over
M80	W80	80 and over
M85	W85	85 and over

R2.3.6 The above age classes shall be offered at all C1 and C2 events unless prior approval is granted by the Controller of Technical Standards. At the discretion of the Organiser, classes for M/W90 and above ages may be offered.

R2.3.7 The age classes indicated above may be split further for a competition with an entry concentrated within a narrow age range (e.g. a schools competition).

R2.3.8 The Organiser, with the approval of the Controller, may decide to amalgamate courses or classes if for instance there are insufficient competitors to provide a good contest.

R2.3.9 A competitor may compete in any age class more demanding than their own.

R2.3.10 A competitor may enter and compete in only one age class at any one event.

R2.3.11 At C1 and C2 Long Distance competitions the provision of non-championship Short courses is at the discretion of the Organiser, but the minimum recommended offering is Men Long, Women Long, Men Short, Women Short, M18 Short, W18 Short, M16 Short, W16 Short.

R2.3.12 At C1 and C2 Middle Distance competitions the provision of non-championship Short courses is at the discretion of the Organiser, but the minimum recommended offering is Men Short, Women Short, M18 Short, W18 Short, M16 Short, W16 Short.

R2.3.13 At Middle and Long Distance events of C1 or C2 status, Light Green, Orange, and Yellow Colour-Coded courses should be available for novice pre-entry and entry-on-the-day competitors.

R2.3.13 For Middle and Long Distance events of C1 and C2 status, Elite courses shall be provided for the M/W18E, 20E, and 21E age classes.

R2.3.14 For Urban or Night events, Juniors aged under 16 on the day of the competition are not permitted to compete on night courses unless the risks to juniors have been addressed specifically. Depending on the location, this may mean not allowing juniors below a certain age, not allowing entry on the day, requiring that juniors below a certain age be shadowed by an adult or requiring proof of orienteering competence.

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R2.4 Irish Championship Competitions

R2.4.1 Irish Championship Competitions shall be Open competitions.

R2.4.2 The requirements to be classed as an Irish Champion (M21E and W21E classes for Middle and Long Distance Championships, and M21 and W21 classes for Sprint Championships), or Irish Class Winner (for all other full length classes) are:-

(A) They are an individual, family or group member of an OI or NIOA affiliated club,

and

(B) They meet either of the following conditions:-

(i) They qualify for Irish citizenship through birth, descent, naturalisation, or marriage in accordance with the Nationality and Citizenship Acts 1956 to 2004,

or

(ii) They have been present on the island of Ireland for at least six out of the twelve months immediately preceding the Championship event.

R2.4.3 The title of Regional Champion may be restricted to the members of the actual region.

R2.5 Irish Relay Championship

R2.5.1 The following classes shall be provided for:-

- Open Premier
- Women's Premier
- Handicap 6
- Handicap 12
- Handicap 18
- Handicap 24
- Junior 48
- Junior 36

R2.5.2 Teams shall consist of three competitors from the same OI, NIOA, or IOF affiliated club in the Open Premier, Women's Premier, Junior 48, and Junior 36 classes.

R2.5.3 Combined teams of men and women may compete in the Open Premier, Handicap, and Junior classes.

R2.5.4 The total orienteering age of the three club members shall be 48 years or less in the Junior 48 class, and 36 or less in the Junior 36 class.

R2.5.5 The Irish Relay Championship shall be an open competition with the Irish Champions being the first OI or NIOA affiliated club team in the Open Premier, Women's Premier, Junior 36 and 48 classes.

To represent an OI or NIOA affiliated club, all team members shall:-

(A) Have been an individual, family, or group member of that OI or NIOA affiliated club for at least three months immediately preceding the Relay Championship, and

(B) Meet either of the following conditions:-

(i) They qualify for Irish citizenship through birth, descent, naturalisation, or marriage, in accordance with the Citizenship Acts 1956 to 2004,

or

(ii) They have been present on the island of Ireland for at least six out of the twelve months immediately preceding the Relay Championship.

Overseas IOF affiliated club teams may compete in the Open Premier, Women's Premier, Junior 48 and Junior 36 classes provided that all team members are from the same club.

The Handicap 6, 12, 18, and 24 classes have no requirement for all members to be from the same club, and as a result no teams in these classes shall be declared as Irish Champion.

It is the responsibility of the club representative completing the Team Registration Form on behalf of an OI or NIOA affiliated club in the Open Premier, Women's Premier, Junior 36, and Junior 48 classes to ensure that all team members meet the requirements of this Rule.

R2.5.6 An OI or NIOA affiliated club member who is also a member of an international IOF affiliated club may represent the latter club in the Irish Relay Championship.

R2.5.5 In the Handicap competitions, the handicap points by age class are as follows:-

Age Class	Handicap Points
M21	0
M20, M35	1
M18, M40, W21	2
M45, W20, W35	3
M16, M50, W18, W40	4
M55, W16, W45	5
M14, M60, W14, W50	6
M65, W55	7
M70, W60	8
W65	9
W70 or over	10

The total handicap points for teams entering the three Handicap competitions are:-

Handicap Class	Total Points
6	6 to 11
12	12 to 17
18	18 and over
24	24 and over

R2.5.6 To cater for the abilities of competitors of different ages, each Handicap team shall complete a short, medium, and long course, and teams will be advised prior to registration, the order in which these courses will be run.

R2.6 Financial Responsibility

For all competitions the organising club shall take financial responsibility, unless prior agreement has been reached with the OI Board of Directors.

R2.7 Event Safety

R2.7.1 All competitors in any competition to which these Rules apply take part entirely at their own risk.

R2.7.2 A competitor who has started the competition shall report to the finish, whether or not they have completed the course.

R2.7.3 A competitor who loses their control card shall report the fact to a finish official.

R2.7.4 At all competitions the Organiser shall arrange for effective first-aid treatment to be available at the finish and shall be able to arrange the transfer of any casualty to an Accident & Emergency hospital. A mobile phone shall be available for use.

R2.7.5 At all competitions the Organiser shall ensure that sufficient help and equipment is available to mount a search for a missing competitor.

R2.7.6 The course shall be planned so that dangerous features, such as quarries, high crags and deep marshes, and out of bounds areas, can be avoided easily. Dangerous features should be marked with yellow tape if they are in an area likely to be visited by any competitors and are not already clearly marked as dangerous. Yellow tape shall not be used for any other purpose.